

plumage begins to appear, and is complete about the end of August or beginning of September; no further moult takes place till the following spring.

This species is distinguished from all other members of the genus *Lagopus* by having the primaries brownish black.

From the above remarks it will be seen that two very extraordinary facts have been ascertained beyond doubt:—

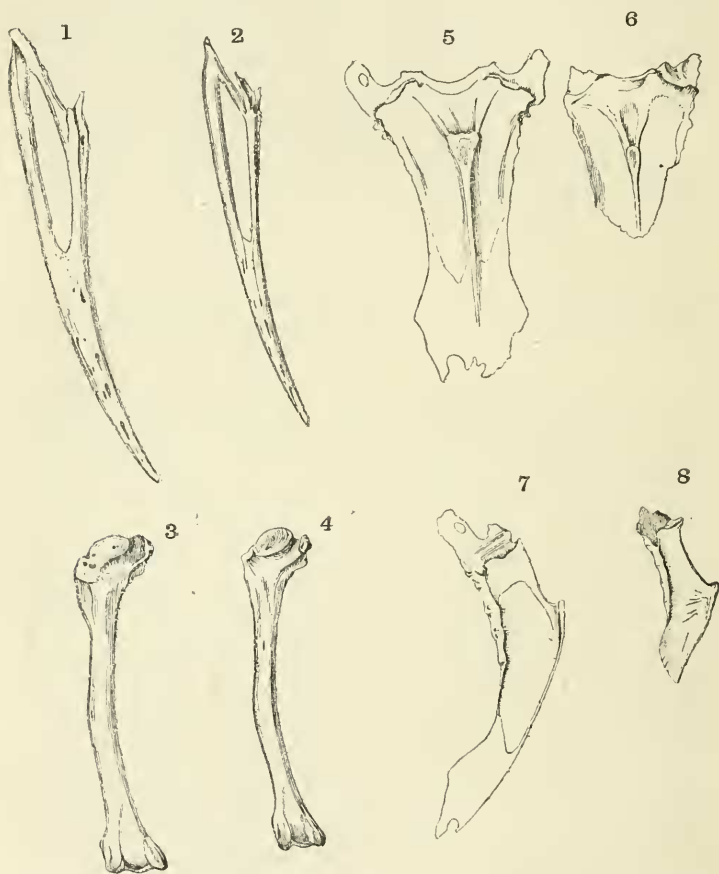
1. That the male gets no distinct *summer* plumage, but has distinct *autumn* and *winter* plumages, and retains the latter throughout the breeding-season.

2. That the female has a distinct *summer* plumage, which is complete by the end of April; also a distinct *autumn* plumage, but never assumes a distinct winter garb, retaining her autumn plumage till the following spring.

XIX.—*Note on the Aphanapteryx of Mauritius and of the Chatham Islands.* By H. O. FORBES.

THE importance, from the point of view of the geographical distribution of life in the Southern Hemisphere, of the accurate determination of the osteological remains discovered last year in the Chatham Islands, and of having them identified or not with the types preserved in the Cambridge University Museum, has induced me to anticipate my fuller paper on the remains of the extinct birds of the New-Zealand region, by presenting to those interested in this subject careful figures (two thirds of the natural size) of some of their more important bones. I have selected those which have been described and figured by Sir Edward Newton and Dr. Gadow in their valuable paper "On Additional Bones of the Dodo and other Extinct Birds of Mauritius obtained by Mr. Théodore Sauzier," read before the Zoological Society of London on November 1st, 1892, and about to appear in the next part of the 'Transactions' of the Society. Through Dr. Gadow's kindness in giving me a proof of this paper, to facilitate my comparison of the Chatham-Island material with the Mauritian, I am able to exhibit figures of the types of the premaxilla, the left humerus, and the sternum by the side of the corresponding bones from the Chatham Islands. The remains from the former locality are more fragmentary than those from the latter. Of the cranium from Mauritius no more, with the exception of the mandible, is known than is shown in fig. 2. Several of the skulls of *Aphanapteryx Hawkinsi*, on the other hand, are absolutely complete except for their pterygoid bones, which

have not yet been found. I have figured (fig. 1) therefore only the portion of *A. Hawkinsi* corresponding to that known of *A. Broecki*. It will be observed that, except in size, the premaxillæ in the two forms agree very closely together. The same, indeed, may be said of the humeri. The humerus of *A. Hawkinsi* (fig. 3) differs from that of *A. Broecki* (fig. 4)



only in being somewhat larger and stouter. The sternum of the former (figs. 5 and 7, in its ventral and lateral aspects respectively) is much more perfect than that of the latter, whose anterior lateral processes and posterior portion (figs. 6 and 8) are all wanting.

I think it will be generally conceded by those ornithologists who compare the four pairs of drawings here given that

they present no characters by which the Chatham-Island bones can be generically distinguished from the Mauritian, and that they both belong to the same genus, *Aphanapteryx*, though perhaps they may constitute two species.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Wild Spain (España agreste): Records of Sport with Rifle, Rod, and Gun, Natural History and Exploration. By ABEL CHAPMAN and WALTER J. BUCK. London: Gurney and Jackson, 1893.

No reader will close this book without admitting that it is at least the production of authors who are thoroughly conversant with their subject; and that is a great deal more than can truthfully be said of a large number of works on Spain, many of which are made up of the grumbles or the gushings of the very ordinary tourist, with descriptions—compiled from guide-books—of the principle antiquities and utterly impossible versions of bull-fights. There is no padding of that kind in the present work; no cathedral or picture-gallery is ever mentioned; and it is much if the word “railway” occurs incidentally, although in travelling from the great plains to the south of Seville or the Sierra Nevada—beloved of the ibex—to the snows of the Sierra de Gredos and the trout-streams of Biscay, railways are useful accessories. This sketch of *España agreste*—rural, sport-affording Spain—is redolent of the keen air of the mountains, the indescribable freshness which, even in the heat of summer, is wafted across the *marisma*, and the spicy resin-laden odour of the *pinales*; and, as such, it will commend itself to every true lover of nature. To many of our readers Mr. Chapman is already known by his ‘Bird-life on the Border’—which we noticed favourably about four years ago—and his excellent articles on the ornithology of Spain contributed to ‘The Ibis’; while Mr. Buck has long been a resident at Jerez, and is one of the keenest sportsmen in the Peninsula. And they have shown no undue haste in publishing their experiences, for more than twenty years have elapsed since they commenced those sporting excursions which have extended to the present day and have resulted in the handsome and profusely illustrated work now before us.

Spontaneity and an absence of effort are noticeable features of the book, and another characteristic is the mixedness of its contents, resembling in this respect those *ollas* which are a household word in connexion with Spanish cookery. Sometimes, as in the chapters on the fighting-bull of Spain, brigandage, agriculture, and viticulture (with important observations on crops, horse-breeding, live-stock, the olive, and the vine), the gypsies, past and present, &c., we detect the preponderance of the experienced resident in the person of Mr. Buck; other chapters show joint collaboration, and it